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MY STAR.

[Robert Browning.]
All that I know
Of a certain star
Is, it can throw
(Like the angled spar)
Now a dart of red,
Now a dart of blue,
Till my friends have said,
"My star that darts the red and blue,
Then it stops like a bird, like a flower hangs
faded;
They must solve themselves with the
"Return above it
What must be if this star is a world?
Mine has opened its soul to me, therefore I
love it."

The Founding of a City.

[Philadelphia News.]
In an Australian mining camp at one of
the tents sat four men—June 10, 1838—
talking of their future and bemoaning the
past. For several months these four men
had worked together in the same claim,
sometimes getting barely sufficient for
daily wants, sometimes not even for that.
For several weeks, indeed, they had
labored without any result. After long
discussion they decided to abandon the
claim.

Down in the mine the three looked
gloomily around, with a kind of sulky
regret at having to leave the scene of so
much useless toil. "Good-by," said one.
"I'll give you a farewell blow." And
raising his pick he struck the quartz,
making splinters fly in all directions. His
practiced eye caught a glittering speck in
one of the bits at his feet. Stopping, he
knelt and satisfied himself that it was
gold! He then commenced picking vigor-
ously. His mates caught the meaning and
followed his example.

In dead silence they worked on—they
had discovered a rich mine. They were
wild glad to sound in the ears of the
one at the windlass, who had sunk
into a half doze, feeling, probably, the
want of his breakfast. To his inquiry,
"What is going on?" the cry came,
"Wind up," and as he did so there rose
to the surface a huge mass of virgin gold.
When fully exposed to view the men
were almost insane with joy. After
watching it through the day and live-long
night they had conveyed in safety to
the bank. It was named Welcome
Stranger and yielded four fortunate discov-
ers of it \$15,000. On the site of that
spot the forest and the scrub have disap-
peared and this place is occupied by the
finest city on the celebrated gold fields of
Victoria.

Superiority of English Cooking.

[Olive Logan's London Letter.]
After a long experience of the cuisine
Francaise, and of American cooking and
of English cooking, I have arrived at the
conclusion that the last-named is the most
succulent, substantial and health-bestow-
ing of any other in the world. English
chops, steaks, kidneys, baked potatoes,
roast beef, boiled salmon, plum pudding,
and Cheshire cheese are exactly the
groundwork required by man—at least
Saxon man—to form the physical basis of
his corporeal existence. French dishes
tickle the palate, but they do not lay
healthy flesh on the bones, calm the nerves
and make pure blood. These desiderata
are attained by a steady course of British
feeding.

In proof of what I say one has only to
take a walk at any hour of the day in
Hyde park and watch the promenaders
there. As specimens of the human ani-
mal, the varied nationalities whose ar-
istocracy one meets in the verdant lanes
and smooth esplanades of that beautiful
greenery all yield the palm to John Bull
and his womankind, with their bright
eyes, rosy cheeks and splendid physical
development. Moral of all this? Eat
plenty of roast beef and juicy steak,
boiled mutton, plain boiled potatoes,
bread a day old and simple sweet puddings.
Avoid hashies (whose nourishing qualities
have all departed in the receding years),
oyster salads, meals of the inimitable
oyster alone, hot rolls, newly-baked bread,
rich pastry, candy and water soups. In
America we have no national cuisine, but
the choice of all the cuisines of the world
is at hand and therefore there is no reason
why a perfectly healthy diet should not
be selected by every individual.

A Spanish Marriage Ceremony.

[New Orleans Times-Democrat.]
A Spanish marriage ceremony has some
peculiar features. Especially notable is
the fashion of velaciones. During the
mass which is said after the marriage cer-
emony, the couple, with their god-father
and god-mother, kneel at the foot of the
altar; a silken cord is thrown around the
neck of the pair, and the bridegroom holds
the ends of it; then they throw a large
strip of silk cloth over the heads of the
newly-married pair, after which a lighted
wax candle is handed to them, and god-
father and god-mother as well, then the
priest besprinkles all four with holy
water, blesses them, and thus the cere-
mony is ended. A Spanish lady does not
consider herself thoroughly married with-
out a "velacion."

Florida's Upas Tree.

[Chicago Times.]
A veritable upas tree grows in the keys
south of Daytona, Fla. It is called the
machinal. Any one taking shelter under
it during a rain, or sleeping under it
when the dew falls, is sure to be poisoned.
One who experienced it says: "It swells
a fellow all up, and makes him feel as if
he had been skinned and peppered." A
man who began making cakes for the
New Orleans exposition from the wood
became poisoned and won't touch it any
more.

NORTH SEA "COOPERS."

FLOATING PUBLIC-HOUSES WHICH
HAIL FROM GERMAN PORTS.

A Visit on Board a "Cooper," and the
Skipper's Reception—The Curse
of the North Sea—Dishonest
Smackmen.

[St. James' Gazette.]

In July last it was announced that a
German vessel, the *Diedrich*, had been at-
tacked and plundered in the North sea by
a gang of pirates, supposed to belong to
English fishing-smacks working on the
Dogger bank. The assailants, it was said,
rowed up in boats, boarded the *Diedrich*,
assaulted and maltreated her officers and
crew, and made off with a considerable
amount of loot. The word "piracy" was
evidently an exaggeration, for it is not
pretended that the "pirates" were
armed. It was suggested, no doubt, that
they carried knives and bludgeons. But
bludgeons are no part of the stores of a
fishing-smack, and every sailor carries a
knife as a matter of course.

To those acquainted with the Dogger
bank the whole thing was clear at once.
The *Diedrich* was admittedly a German
"cooper." The "coopers" are large
smacks of sixty or seventy tons measure-
ment, liberally rigged and fast sailers.
They come out from the German ports
with a cargo consisting principally of
cigars, tobacco, and spirits. But they also
carry scent, kid gloves, bangles, and
other such wares of Antiochus, which the
smackmen purchase for their wives,
daughters, or sweethearts. There will
also be an assortment of sundries—cut-
tery, combs and brushes, razors, and
books, and, with these other articles of a
distinctly objectionable character, such as
stereoscopic slides, the sale of which on
shore in England would be an indictable
offense. The prices charged are low, and
the goods, as a rule, are worthless. The
spirits are abominable. Only a smack-
man in want of a drink will drink any-
thing. The one genuine article a cooper
carries is her tobacco. This costs her 18
pence a pound. The favorite brand re-
joices in the title of "Rising Hope," and
it would be cheap in London at 4 pence
the ounce.

These coopers come out of the German
ports and cruise about among the fishing
boats. There is no secret as to their busi-
ness. It is publicly indicated by a small,
square blue flag hung a third up the main-
mast. They are, in reality, floating
public-houses, and the flag in question is
their sign-board. Now English fishing-
smacks on the Dogger put down their
trawl at sunset and haul it at sunrise.
During the day they are engaged in their
visit to, drifting slowly to leeward and
hardly shifting their position on the fishing-
grounds. It is during the leisure hour
of the day—generally at dinner-time—that
the visit to the cooper takes place. You
row up to her, and are welcomed by a
polyglot skipper, who commences pro-
posals by handing you a glass of
liquor, and then gets to business. Over
the business an altercation is by no means
uncommon, and it will sometimes get
beyond the length of mere words. If, on
the other hand, things go amicably, an
hour or two will be spent in drinking
Hamburg sherry, potato-spirit, and other
such poison; and then the men will rejoin
their smack, all more or less drunk and
loaded with rubbish.

There is nothing good on a cooper ex-
cept her tobacco; and this is only because
cigars, tobacco, and spirits are counter-
feited or adulterated. The floating grog-
shops in the cooperating trade are the curse
of the North Sea. The men waste money
on them which would be better spent on
shore; and in too many cases the skipper
of a cooper is neither more or less than a
receiver of stolen goods. When the
smackmen have no money he will tempt
them to "ruck" the stores of their vessel;
and many a valuable net, many fathoms
of rope, many anchors, and other such
gear, have been reported as lost, which in
reality have been bartered away for an
eight of their value in exchange for Ham-
burg spirits. No one says that this is
the worst part of the smackmen's busi-
ness, but there is a rough sense in a remark
often heard from the bench, that if there
were no receivers there would be no thieves.

Peculiarity of Seismic Waves.

[Inter Ocean.]
It is a remarkable peculiarity of earth-
quakes, and one which may yet shed
light upon the mystery of these seismic
disturbances, that they generally roll from
east to west like a wave. Within recent
years this singular trait of earthquakes
has been very conspicuous. The dreadful
earthquakes which altered the configura-
tion of the island of Java was followed
by terrestrial disturbances in Syria and
Asia Minor, and now the convulsion that
has smote terror to the heart of Spain seems to have rolled
across to England, where several shocks
have been distinctly felt. In 1755 the
great earthquake which destroyed Lisbon
and upheaved the Tagus until it looked
more like a great tidal wave than a river,
was followed by shocks in England and
France. The American continent does
not seem to be affected by these seismic
waves, but in the old world it does seem
to be the rule that earthquakes start in
the east and roll westward.

Australian Sheep Dog.

According to English papers, the sheep
dog in Australia has brought out a
variety of the sheep dog remarkable for
sagacity, but differing in many other par-
ticulars from those of other countries. It
is related of them that they will hunt for
stragglers miles away from the hut, and
either drive them in or catch them, if
they happen to be exhausted, until they
gather sufficient strength to walk. It is
a common thing in traversing the graz-
ing country to come upon one of these
sagacious dogs on guard over a strayed or
broken-down sheep, and while placable
and gentle to a remarkable degree, as a
rule, are then resentful of interference
with their charge, and fierce in the ex-
treme.

An eagle that died in Vienna not long
ago is said to have been in captivity for a
period of not less than 115 years.

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ments for the Island of Oahu, No. 9 Kaahumanu
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All orders promptly attended to.
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Thinking the public for past favors, I so-
licit a continuation of the same.
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structures of Honolulu. The grounds upon which it stands comprise
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large area affords ample room for a lawn and beautiful walks, which
are laid out most artistically with flowering plants and tropical trees.
There are twelve pretty cottages within this charming enclosure, all
under the Hotel management. The Hotel and cottages afford accom-
modations for 200 guests. The basement of the Hotel contains the
finest billiard hall in the city; also, a first-class bar, well stocked with
fine wines and liquors.

The main entrance is on the second floor, to the right of which are
the elegantly furnished parlors. A broad passage-way leads from the
main hall to the dining-room. These apartments open on to broad
verandas, where a magnificent view of the Nuuanu Mountains may be
seen through the wealth of tropical foliage that surrounds the
balconies.

The fare dispensed is the best the market affords, and is first-class
in all respects. Hotel and cottages are supplied with pure water from
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